

Of the genus *Oxyrhopus* I have seen the following species:—*O. Clælia*, *O. formosus*, *O. petolarius*, *O. immaculatus*, and *O. trigeminus*. The last-named one and *O. petolarius* are the most common. Of *O. immaculatus* I have seen a single specimen.

Of the family Elapidæ two species are very common—*Elaps lemniscatus* and *E. corallinus*. The variety of the latter with white-edged black rings never attains but a small size; it differs also in coloration from the others, being brick-red. I am therefore inclined to consider it as a distinct species—the *E. circinalis* of Dum. and Bibron.

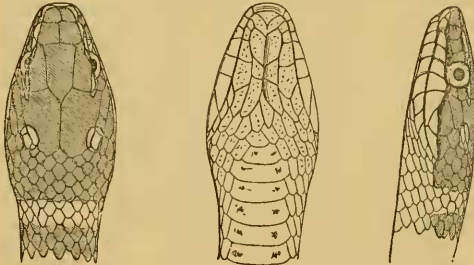
ADDITION TO DR. WUCHERER'S ARTICLE ON THE OPHIDIANS OF BAHIA. BY DR. A. GÜNTHER, F.Z.S., ETC.

Almost simultaneously with the concluding part of Dr. Wucherer's paper "On the Ophidians of Bahia," I received from him a small Snake, which on examination proved to be a new species of the genus *Dromicus*.

Mr. Cope has lately* pointed out the complete gradation existing between the most slender species of *Dromicus* and the stout forms of the genus *Liophis*, dividing them into six divisions, characterized by the structure of the scales and by the relative length of the tail†. This new species would enter the division *Lygophis* of his arrangement, having the scales without grooves, and a tail the length of which is one-fourth of the total.

DROMICUS (*LYGOPHIS*) *WUCHERERI*, sp. nov.

Scales in fifteen rows. Loreal square; one præorbital, reaching to the upper surface of the head, but not touching the vertical; two



postorbitals; eight upper labials, the third, fourth, and fifth entering the orbit (the third with its posterior angle only); the seventh labial forms only a small portion of the lip, and on one side it is

* Proc. Acad. Nat. Sc. Philad. 1862, p. 75.

† Mr. Cope's general observations on the species of these genera are perfectly correct, and the divisions proposed by him are most convenient for the determination of the species, but they do not appear to me to be more natural groups than those which we had before; for instance, *Liophis Reginae* is certainly more closely allied to *L. Merremii* and to *L. Cobella* than to *Dromicus Temminckii*; yet *L. Reginae* and *D. Temminckii* are united into one group, and the two others into another. *L. conirostris* cannot be separated from *L. Reginae*. And if *Liophis* and *Dromicus* be brought into so close a proximity as they are by Mr. Cope, *Zamenis* and certain species of *Coronella*, *Leptodira*, &c., cannot be kept at a distance.

even somewhat remote from the labial edge, the sixth and eighth labials being in contact with each other (as in *Diemennia*, where this shield is generally described as a temporal). An elongate temporal shield is in contact with both oculars; five scale-like temporals behind, in two transverse series. Five pairs of the lower labials are in contact with the chin-shields. 160 ventral shields; anal bifid; 66 subcaudals.

The posterior maxillary tooth is the strongest, and somewhat remote from the preceding.

Light brownish olive, minutely dotted with brown. Anterior part of the trunk with twelve pairs of brown spots, which are arranged in a zigzag series; the spots of the two anterior pairs are confluent. Head brown, with a pair of rounded, well-defined, yellowish spots; a yellow line from above the eye, along the canthus rostralis, round the snout; upper lip yellow, separated from the brown colour by a black line; anterior ventral shields with an irregular series of black dots on each side; belly yellow.

The typical specimen is an adult male, 16 inches long. I name the species after my friend Dr. O. Wucherer of Bahia, its discoverer, who informs me that he has seen only three specimens of it, alike in size and colour. The species, therefore, appears to be scarce.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the Acanthocephali. By RUDOLPH LEUCKART.

THE *Acanthocephali* are the only group of Entozoa the development of which has hitherto eluded the investigations of naturalists. Dujardin and Siebold have indicated that the ova of the *Echinorhynchi* contain embryos very different from their parents; but this constitutes the whole of our knowledge, and the attribution to these animals of a simple metamorphosis by Van Beneden and G. Wagner is a pure hypothesis.

Prof. Leuckart was struck more than once by the presence of an imperfectly developed *Echinorhynchus* in the freshwater *Gammarus* (*G. Pulex*), and he thought that he recognized a certain resemblance between this parasite and the *Echinorhynchus Proteus* of the Carps. He therefore scattered the ova of six or eight *Echinorhynchi* of this species in a bottle containing *Gammari*, and in a few days found a great number of these ova in the intestine of the *Gammari*. He also found that the embryos quitted their envelopes, pierced the wall of the intestine, and passed into the abdominal cavity of these Crustaceans. These young worms are truncated anteriorly, and the truncated surface bears a double bundle of chitinous spines. In the interior of the body there is an accumulation of oval granules, previously indicated by Siebold as a constant organ of the embryos of *Echinorhynchi*: Siebold regarded this organ as an unassimilated residue of the vitellus. To avoid prejudging, it may be called the nucleus.

The young embryo increases in size for about three weeks, after which it undergoes a singular metamorphosis. Its nucleus is elon-